



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6227.0.30.001 - Survey of Education and Work, Australia - Confidentialised Unit Record File, May 2003

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Summary

Main Features

INQUIRIES

- For information about the 2003 Survey of Education and Work or about data contained on the confidentialised unit record file contact the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics on 02 6252 7934. For information about obtaining access to the file, contact <curf.management@abs.gov.au> or telephone 02 6252 5853.

CONTENTS

Introduction
About the survey
About the microdata
About the files
Conditions of release
Accessing the CURF

APPENDIXES

1 Populations
2 Data items
3 Files

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCED Australian Standard Classification of Education
CURF Confidentialised Unit Record File
LFS Labour Force Survey
n.f.d. not further defined
SEW Survey of Education and Work
TAFE Technical and Further Education

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides information about the release of microdata from the 2003 Survey of Education and Work (SEW). The data are available through a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. Two CURFs are available:

- a CURF available on CD-ROM, and
- a CURF accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

The RADL is an on-line database query system, under which microdata are held on a server at the ABS, to which users can submit programs to interrogate and analyse the data, and access the results.

For further information about the data contained on the CURF, contact the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics on 02 6252 7934.

Further information about the RADL facility and information about obtaining access to the file is available on the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Access to ABS CURFs listed under ABS Products and Services).

More detailed information to assist in using the CURF, and in interpreting the data, is also provided in the documentation on or accompanying the CURF.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The SEW was conducted throughout Australia in May 2003 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

Information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field of qualification), whether attended an educational institution and type of attendance in 2002, and whether attending an educational institution and type of attendance in May 2003.

Estimates from the survey, as well as more information on the survey sample, conceptual framework, definitions and methodology, explanatory notes and glossary, were published in **Education and Work, Australia 2003** (cat. no. 6227.0). This publication is on the CURF as an Acrobat file 62270_2003.PDF.

Classification of education

The **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)** (cat. no. 1272.0) was introduced into ABS collections in 2001. It replaced a number of education classifications used prior to 2001, including the **ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)** (cat. no 1262.0). ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Scope

The scope of this survey was persons aged 15-64 years, excluding the following:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated resident population figures
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants)
- persons permanently unable to work; and
- institutionalised persons (e.g. patients in hospitals; residents of homes, e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities; and inmates of prisons).

Students at boarding schools were in scope for this survey. The 2003 survey yielded an estimate of 9,500 boarding school pupils aged 15 years or more. The only other information collected on these persons was sex and age.

The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 20% of the population.

Information was collected via face-to-face or telephone interviews conducted by trained interviewers who asked members of each household, or a responsible adult answering on behalf of other household members, detailed questions about their educational attainment and recent participation in education.

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The data are released under the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF and other steps have been taken to protect confidentiality of respondents, such as not including all data items that were collected and suppressing the detail of some other data items.

The SEW 2003 CURF contains approximately 44,000 confidentialised respondent records. A range of predefined populations and a list of data items, to assist in analysing data in the CURF, are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

Subject to the limitations of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

Use of weights

As the survey was conducted on a sample of all households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF.

This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory or, in some cases, area of state or territory in which they lived.

Each person record contains a weight. This weight indicates how many people are represented by that person.

Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category and not just by counting the number in each category. If each person's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection or of different response rates across population groups, and the resulting estimates could be seriously biased.

The application of weights will ensure that the subsequent estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Due to differences in scope and sample size between this supplementary survey and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

For further information see the Explanatory Notes in the publication **Education and Work, Australia 2003** (cat. no. 6227.0). This publication is on the CURF as an Acrobat file 62270_2003.PDF.

Data reconciliation

Steps to confidentialise the data set made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to optimise the content of the file while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all statistics produced from the CURF with published statistics.

Ordering tables

Access to the full detail from the survey (including data items deleted from the CURF) is only available through tables produced by the ABS. Requirements for these tables should be discussed with the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics on 02 6252 7934.

Sampling error

Since the information on the CURF are based on information from a sample of dwellings, any statistics produced from the CURF will be subject to sampling error. Sampling error arises because the estimates are based on a sample of possible observations and so will differ from estimates that would have been produced if all households had been included in the survey.

One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than 2 SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is

obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

Tables of standard errors (which are a measure of sampling error) are provided in the Technical Note of the publication **Education and Work, Australia 2003** (cat. no. 6227.0).

Seasonal factors

Estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and due to seasonal factors they may not be representative of other months of the year.

ABOUT THE FILES

Both the CD-ROM and the RADL versions of the CURF are available in SAS and SPSS formats. If your analysis software is other than SAS or SPSS you may require the services of a computer programmer to use the ASCII file version of the data. The RADL can only be accessed using SAS and SPSS at this time. Full details of the files on the CURF are given in Appendix 3.

Four types of files relating to SEW 2003 data are provided on the CURF:

- Data and metadata - an ASCII data file holding approximately 44,000 records, and metadata files that document the data file and every data item on that file. The metadata are provided in plain text file, for reading;
- SAS user files - including a SAS version of the dataset, and the SAS programs that generated the SAS-formatted version;
- SPSS user files - including an SPSS version of the dataset, and the SAS programs that generated the SPSS-formatted version; and
- Information files - including several in Adobe Acrobat format.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

Release of CURF

The SEW CURF is released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, **Statutory Rules 1983, No.19**) in pursuance of section 13 of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. As required by the Determination, the information contained in the CURF can only be disclosed in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person or organisation to which it relates.

All organisations and individuals within organisations who request access to the CURF will, prior to being granted access to the CURF, be required to sign an Undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the SEW CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the data they will:

- use the information only for statistical purposes;
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations;
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the information to any other person or

- organisation; and
- not attempt to match the information with any other unit level list of persons.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the information contained in the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures;
- estimation of population characteristics;
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis); and
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the "Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual" available on the ABS Website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Access to ABS CURFs). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the user liable to severe penalties. Advice about the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from the CURF Management Unit of the ABS at <curf.management@abs.gov.au>.

Conditions of sale

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS conditions of sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

Price

The price of the 2003 SEW CURF on CD-ROM or RADL as at June 2004 is \$8,000, including GST, freight and handling charges as appropriate.

While the utmost care is taken in handling each CURF on CD-ROM, deterioration may occur between the time of copying and receipt of the file. Accordingly, if the CD-ROM is unreadable on receipt and this is reported to the ABS within 30 days of receipt, it will be replaced free of charge.

ACCESSING THE CURF

All clients wishing to access the SEW CURFs should refer to the ABS Website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Access to ABS CURFs) and read the "Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual", and other relevant information, before downloading the Application and Undertaking to apply for access.

Australian universities

University customers should refer to the ABS Website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (under "Services to Universities"). The SEW CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/AVCC CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes. Universities wishing

to use the CURF for commercial purposes outside this agreement may apply under the standard ABS application process detailed on the ABS website Access to CURFs pages.

Other Australian clients

Other prospective clients should contact the CURF Management Unit of the ABS at <curf.management@abs.gov.au>.

The CURF is not available to overseas customers.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Provides selected information on participation in education, highest educational attainment, transition from education to work and current labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15-64 years. Characteristics reported on include: type of educational institution attended or attending; level and main field of education of current study and highest level and main field of educational attainment. Information on unsuccessful enrolment and deferment of study is included for persons not studying in the survey year.

Explanatory Notes

Populations (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS

Note: In this population list below, 'previous year' refers to 2002, and 'current year' refers to 2003.

Description	SAS Name
Population 1 Persons aged 15-64 years including boarding school pupils (BSP) but excluding institutionalised persons and persons permanently unable to work	This refers to all persons in scope of the survey
Population 2 Persons aged 15-64 years who attended an educational institution in previous year	ATSTPRY

Population 3 Persons aged 15-64 years who attended school in previous year	PSNATSCH
Population 4 Persons aged 15-64 years who attended a tertiary institution in previous year	ATTSTPRY
Population 5 Leavers from full-time education (aged 15-64 years) in current year	LVRSNFTS
Population 6 Persons aged 15-64 years enrolled in a course of study in current year	ATSMAY
Population 7 Persons aged 15-64 years attending a tertiary institution in current year	ATTSMAY
Population 8 Persons aged 15-64 years who have a non-school qualification	PNOSQUAL
Population 9 Persons aged 15-24 years who attended school in previous year but were not attending school in current year	ASPRNSCY
Population 10 Employed persons aged 15-54 years who were apprentices in current year	APPRENTC
Population 11 Persons aged 15-64 years who were not enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in previous year but who were enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in current year	PSNSTDYC
Population 12 Persons aged 15-64 years who were enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in previous year but who were not enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in current year	ARPYNARC
Population 13 Persons aged 15-64 years who were enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in previous year	RQDPYEAR
Population 14 Persons aged 15-64 years who were enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification in current year	RECSTUDY
Population 15 Employed persons aged 15-64 years	EMPTWWT
Population 16 Unemployed persons aged 15-64 years	UNETWWT

Data Items (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 DATA ITEMS

Description	Classification	SAS Name	Population
Random identifier		_RNDOMID	ALL
Person weight		FINPRSWT	ALL
Sex	Males Females	SEX	ALL
Age	Single years 15-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64	AGECURF	ALL
Marital status	Married Not married	MARSTAT	ALL
Relationship in household	Husband, wife or partner with dependants Husband, wife or partner without dependants Lone parent with or without dependants Dependent student Non-dependent child Other family person Lone person Not living alone Not determined	RELINHH	ALL
State or territory of usual residence	New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory	COLSTATE	ALL
Area of usual residence	State capital city Balance of state/territory **** <i>split not available for Tasmania, NT and ACT</i> ****	AREAUR	ALL
Country of birth	Boarding school pupils Born in Australia Born overseas in main English-speaking countries Born overseas in other countries	COBPLACE	ALL
Period of arrival	Born in Australia Arrived before 1981 Arrived 1981-1990 Arrived 1991 to current year	PRDARRVL	ALL

Labour force status	Employed full-time workers Employed part-time workers Unemployed looking for full-time work Unemployed looking for part-time work Not in labour force	LFSFPTC	1-9, 11-14
Labour force status of leavers in current year	Not applicable (non-leavers) Leavers from full-time tertiary study, employed Leavers from full-time tertiary study, not employed Leavers from full-time school study, employed Leavers from full-time school study, not employed	LFSSCHLV	5
Status in employment in current job	Not employed Wage or salary earner Other	SWORKER	15
Hours worked in all jobs	Not applicable 1-15 16-29 30-34 35-39 40 41-44 45-48 49+	WKDHRS	15
Occupation	Not applicable Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers	TEWOCC	15
Occupation of last full-time job	Not applicable Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers	TEWOCCL	16

	Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Last full-time job two years or more ago Never had a full-time job		
Industry	Not applicable Agriculture, forestry and fishing Mining Manufacturing Electricity, gas and water supply Construction Wholesale trade Retail trade Accommodation, cafes and restaurants Transport and storage Communication services Finance and insurance Property and business services Government administration and defence Education Health and community services Cultural and recreational services Personal and other services	TEWIND	15
Duration of unemployment	Not applicable Under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 52 weeks 52 and under 104 weeks 104 weeks and over	WKSUNEMP	16
Whether attended an educational institution, type of institution and type of attendance in previous year (study for a qualification)	School Higher education full-time Higher education part-time TAFE full-time TAFE part-time Other Did not attend in previous year	TEDUAPYR	1
Whether attended an educational institution, type of institution and type of attendance in previous year (all study)	School Higher education full-time Higher education part-time TAFE full-time TAFE part-time Other Did not attend in previous year	PYREDUAT	1
Whether attended an educational institution and level of education of study in previous year (ASCED)	Not applicable Post-graduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree	LEDUPYR	1, 2-3, 6-8, 14

	Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate n.f.d. Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 or below Level not determined Boarding school pupils Study not leading to a qualification Did not attend in previous year		
Main field of education of study in previous year (ASCED)	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programmes Field not determined	FSPRVYRA	2, 4-5, 12-13
Status of course of study undertaken in previous year	Not applicable Completed qualification studied for in previous year, highest obtained Completed qualification studied for in previous year, not highest obtained Had not completed qualification, studying at a tertiary institution in current year Had not completed qualification, not studying at a tertiary institution in current year	SCRSEPYR	2, 4, 13
Whether attending an educational institution, type of institution and type of attendance in current year	School Higher education full-time Higher education part-time TAFE full-time TAFE part-time Other Not attending in current year	TYPEDATC	1
Level of study in current year (ASCED)	Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate n.f.d. Year 12	LVLSTDC	1-7, 9-16

	Year 11 Year 10 or below Level not determined Boarding school pupils Study not leading to a qualification Not attending in current year		
Main field of education of study in current year (ASCED)	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programmes Field not determined	FSCURYRA	6-7, 11, 14
Commencement of apprenticeship/traineeship	Not applicable Commenced in the last 12 months Commenced more than 12 months ago Not an apprentice/trainee	CAPPTRNP	10
Whether applied to enrol in an educational institution in current year and type of institution	Studying currently Gained placement but deferred study Unable to gain placement Did not apply to enrol in current year	AENRCUR	1
Age at time of leaving full-time education	Not asked (persons aged over 24 years) Left at age 14 and under Left at age 15 years Left at age 16 years Left at age 17 years Left at age 18 years Left at age 19 years Left at age 20 years Left at age 21 years Left at age 22 years Left at age 23 years Left at age 24 years Never attended full-time education Attending full-time study in current year for a qualification Attending other full-time study in current year	AGELFTE	1
Year last attended an educational institution full-time	Before 1996 1996 1997 1998 1999	YRLAFTE	1

	2000 2001 Left in previous year or later Never attended full-time, aged 25 or over or not asked Attending full-time study in current year for a qualification Attending other full-time study in current year		
Time of leaving full-time recognised education (all study)	January to July previous year August to December previous year January to May current year Not asked (aged 25+)	TMELFTEC	5
Main reason left full-time tertiary education	Not applicable (aged 25+) Completed course of study Changed to part-time study Employment or financial reasons Family responsibilities/illness/injury /personal reasons Deferred course/lost interest/failed course Course unavailable or other reasons	MRSNLFTT	5
Type of school last attended	Not applicable Government Catholic Other non-government Not asked or never attended	TSCHCURF	Aged 15-24
Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)	Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma / Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate n.f.d. Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 or below / Never attended school Level not determined Boarding school pupils	LVLHEDAT	1
Level of highest non-school qualification obtained (ASCED)	Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma / Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma / Diploma Certificate III / IV Certificate I / II Certificate n.f.d. Level not determined No non-school qualifications	LHNSCHQ	ALL

	obtained		
Highest year of school completed (ASCED)	Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 or below, never attended school, not asked or boarding school pupils	HGHSCHAT	ALL
Main field of highest educational attainment (ASCED)	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programmes Field not determined (includes Never attended school)	MFHIGHED	ALL
Year completed highest non-school qualification	Not applicable Before 1981 1981-1985 1986-1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003	YCHQUAL	8
Number of non-school qualifications obtained	One non-school qualification Two non-school qualifications Three or more non-school qualifications No non-school qualifications	NUMNSEDQ	1
Main field of highest non-school qualification (ASCED)	Natural and physical sciences Information technology Engineering and related technologies Architecture and building Agriculture, environmental and related studies Health	MFHNSCHQ	8

	Education Management and commerce Society and culture Creative arts Food, hospitality and personal services Mixed field programmes/Field not determined		
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Files (Appendix)

APPENDIX 3 FILES

Protecting privacy

The release of the data is possible under the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where 'the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation'. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF. To ensure that the confidentiality of individuals is protected, the detail for some data items has been collapsed, while a small number of data items have been deleted altogether.

Subject to the limitations of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to your own specifications.

File and record structure

The CURF contains three groups of files associated with the survey - a total of 12 files - as detailed below.

Data and metadata

- SEW03.DAT - contains the raw confidentialised survey data in comma delimited ASCII text format.

SAS and SPSS files

- SEW03.SAS - contains the SAS input program which was used to read the data in SEW03.DAT into the SAS dataset SEW03.SD2.
- SEW03.SPS - contains the SPSS input program which was used to read the data in SEW03.DAT into the SPSS dataset SEW03.SAV.
- SEW03.SD2 - contains the CURF data in SAS for Windows format.
- SEW03.SAV - contains the CURF data in SPSS for Windows format.

Information files

- COPYRIGHT.BAT - contains the ABS copyright warning notice, to the effect that the

copyright to the confidentialised survey data is held by the ABS.

- README.TXT - contains a brief description of each of the files comprising a survey CURF package available for purchase by clients of the ABS.
- SEW03_Record_Counts - the complete unweighted frequency counts for all populations in TEXT format.
- SEW03_Weighted_Estimates - the complete weighted frequency counts for all populations in TEXT format.
- SEW03 CURF Information Paper - the complete text of this Information Paper, provided to purchasers of the CURF, in ASCII Text format.
- 62270_2003.PDF - is the publication **Education and Work, Australia 2003** (cat. no. 6227.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.
- 12720_2001.PDF - is the publication **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0), in Adobe Acrobat format.

Data items

The CURF contains a record for each person enumerated in the survey, subject to the confidentiality constraints mentioned previously. Data items for the following categories are included on the CURF:

- socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace);
- employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry);
- educational qualifications obtained;
- recent study for educational qualifications; and
- access to education and training

A list of the populations and data items including SAS names, is provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

Some data items on the CURF directly reflect responses to individual questions contained in the survey questionnaire, while others have been derived from responses to two or more questions. Due to the sheer volume and complexity of the derivations, they have not been presented in this document. Please refer any queries about the derivation of particular data items to the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics on 02 6252 7934.

Abbreviations and substitutions

Each label for the data items and populations can only be provided in a single-line character string of not more than 99 characters, i.e. there is no hierarchical structure. To make each label fit within the character string a number of abbreviations and substitutions may have been used.

Abbreviations and the most common substitutions are listed at the start of this Information Paper.

